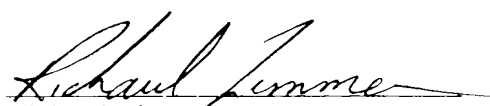


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Loughney et al.) I hereby certify that this paper is being
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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please enter the following preliminary amendment.

In the specification:

At page 1, under the Title and before the heading "Field of the Invention," please delete the priority claim and insert the following updated priority claim:

--This application is a divisional application of U.S. patent application Serial No: 09/256,000 filed February 23, 1999, which claims priority of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/075,508, filed February 23, 1998.--